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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/618,365	07/18/2000	Khanh Trang Nguyen	IGT1P022	8884

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, KIM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2189

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/618,365

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN ET AL.

Examiner

Kim T. Huynh

Art Unit

2189

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 July 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-7, 10-23, 25, 27-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Acres et al. (US Patent 5,741,183)

As per claim 1, Acres discloses a communication interface for a gaming machine comprising:

(a) a main communication board comprising:

- at least one power (col.10, lines 15-29, wherein main board enclosed by gaming machine board which is system board thereby power supply to machine board so as main board) connection adapted to supply power to the main communication board and at least one other component connected to the main communication board, (col.16, lines 56-65, wherein expansion connector (fig.9, 206) allows the DCN controller to communicate with expansion device)
- a communication connection configured to communicate with a master gaming controller of the gaming machine, and (col.9, lines 55-67), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46)
- at least one standard receptor slot for securing at least one other component to the main communication board, (col.16, lines 56-65, wherein

connector 206 connects to expansion device) wherein the main communication board is located on either a first communication path between the master gaming controller and a gaming device, a second communication path providing a direct link from the master gaming controller to an outside network, or both; and (col.11, lines 17-67)

(b) a daughter board plugged into the receptor slot of the main communication board and configured to receive power from the main communication board, said daughter board adapted to utilize a first communication formation for allowing the gaming machine to communicate, said daughter board comprising conversion circuitry for converting signals between the first communication format and a second communication format. (col.11, lines 17-67), see figure 2.

As per claims 1, 14, Acres discloses a communication interface for a gaming machine comprising:

(a) a main communication board comprising;

- at least one power *(col.10, lines 15-29, wherein main board enclosed by gaming machine board which is system board thereby power supply to machine board so as main board)* connection for supplying power to the main communication board (fig.2, 202) and a daughter board (expansion device) connected to the main communication board, *(col.16, lines 56-65, wherein expansion connector (fig.9, 206) allows the DCN controller to communicate with expansion device), see figure 2 for further clarifications.*

- a communication connection configured to communicate with a master gaming controller of the gaming machine, and
(col.9, lines 55-67), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46)
- at least one standard receptor slot (fig.9, 206) for securing the daughter board to the main communication board; and
(col.16, lines 56-65, wherein connector 206 connects to expansion device)

(b) the daughter board configured to plug into the receptor slot of the main communication board and thereby provide a communication format for allowing the gaming machine to communicate, said daughter board comprising:

- conversion circuitry (fig.3, 66) for converting signals between the communication format and a second communication format. *(col.9, lines 55-67), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46), also see figure 2., col.11, lines 17-67)*

As per claims 2 and 18, the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine device. *(col.16, lines 56-6), (col.17, lines 1-15), wherein configuration number implies communication format)*

As per claims 3 and 19, the gaming machine device is a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign. *(col. 19, lines 26-37)*

As per claims 4 and 21, the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine network. *(col.16, lines 56-6), (col.17, lines 1-15), wherein configuration number implies communication format)*

As per claims 29 and 30, Arces discloses

- providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which first daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a second communications format for transmission *(col.9, lines 55-67), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46)*
- replacing the first daughter board with a second daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a communications format, other than the first communication format, for transmission. *(col.9, lines 55-67), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46 (col.10, lines 41-67), wherein machine configuration identifies the type of machine that connected , disable device not identifies no match)*

As per claims 5, 22, 31, the gaming machine network is a casino area network or a wide area progressive network. *(col.2, lines 51-57)*

As per claims 6, 16, 17, 27, 35, the communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB. *(col.9, lines 53-54)*

As per claims 7 and 15, the communication connection between the main communication board and the master gaming controller is configured for an RS-232 communication format or a USB communication format. *(col.9, lines 45-67)*

As per claim 10, the standard receptor is configured to supply power and a communication signal to the daughter board when the daughter board is plugged into the standard receptor slot. *(col.17, lines 47-58, wherein identification circuit activate a selected device(daughter board) by provide supply power, (col.19, lines 37, controller control gaming devices by current , predetermined gaming devices)*

As per claims 11 and 25, the power connection is configured to receive power from a substantially non-varying power source. *(col.19, lines 37, controller control gaming devices by current , predetermined gaming devices, fixed implies non-varying source)*

As per claim 12, a second power connection wherein the second power connection is configured to receive power from a power source which is shut off by a switch within the gaming machine. *(col.19, lines 37, controller control gaming devices by current , predetermined gaming devices, fixed implies non-varying source)*

As per claim 13, the gaming machine is a traditional slot game, a video slot game, a video poker game, keno game, or a lottery game. *(col.16, lines 45-52)*

As per claim 20, an optocoupler integrated circuit wherein in the optocoupler integrated circuit is configured to provide electrical isolation between the gaming machine device and the main communication board or electrical isolation between the gaming machine network and the main communication board. *(col.9, lines 38-42)*

As per claim 23, the output mechanism is a fiber optic cable,

a ribbon line cable, twisted pair cable or other wire medium. (col.10, lines 17-34)

As per claim 28, an echo disable circuitry wherein the echo disable circuitry is configured to receive a signal that disables the transmission of signals from the output mechanism. (col.10, lines 41-67), *wherein machine configuration identifies the type of machine that connected to disable device not identifies*)

As per claim 32, the third communication format is a fiber optic communication standard. (col.3, lines 32-50)

As per claim 33, the first communication format is an RS-232 communication standard. (col.12, lines 36)

As per claim 34, the gaming machine device is selected from a group consisting of a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign. (col.12, lines 66-67)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres et al. (US Patent 5,741,183)

a. As per claims 8 and 24, Acres does not explicitly disclose the standard receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector.

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector, since applicant has not discloses that having the receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector to solve any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears having a connector to receive an expansion device not specifically a 15 pin type of connector for receiving expansion device would perform equally well with.

b. As per claims 9 and 26, Arcres discloses a connector with one or more ground and power pins (*multiple expansion devices therefore multiple pins*); however, Arcres does not explicitly discloses the ground pins the ground pins are longer than the power pins on the connector.

Examiner take Official Notice that ground pins power pins is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the ground pin is longer than power pins into Arcres's system so as to distinguish between the two pins.

Response to Amendment

4. Applicant's amendment filed on 8/11/03 have been fully considered but not persuasive:

a. In response to applicant's argument that Examiner is not clearly saying what is the communication board and what is the daughter board. the main communication board (fig.2, 202) and a daughter board (expansion device) connected to the main communication board, (*col.16, lines 56-65, wherein expansion connector (fig.9, 206) allows the DCN*

controller to communicate with expansion device), please see figure 2 for further clarifications.(col.11, lines 17-67)

b. In response to applicant's argument that what Examiner to consider a receptor slot and the daughter board. standard receptor slot (fig.9, 206) for securing the daughter board (expansion device) to the main communication board; and *(col.16, lines 56-65, wherein connector 206 connects to expansion device)*

c. In response to applicant's argument that Arces's reference does not describe a standard connector on the daughter board that can be plugged into a standard receptor on a main communication board. standard receptor slot (fig.9, 206) for securing the daughter board (expansion device) to the main communication board (fig.2, 202); and *(col.16, lines 56-65, wherein expansion connector (fig.9, 206) allows the DCN controller of main communication board to communicate with expansion device), please see figure 2.(col.11, lines 17-67)*

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

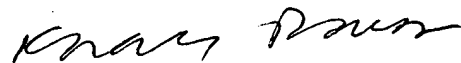
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (703)305-5384 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM- 6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815 or via e-mail addressed to [mark.rinehart@uspto.gov]. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5631.

Kim Huynh

Nov. 3, 2003



Khanh Dang
Primary Examiner